



HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS BOARD

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James M. Irvin, Executive Secretary
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Mitchell Smith, Jr., Vice Chairperson
Christine M. Carroll, Member
Michael A. Higgins, Member
Lisa S. Spitulnik, Member

Minutes of the Howard County Public Works Board – June 9, 2009

Members present: Darryl A. Stokes; Mitchell Smith, Jr.; Christine M. Carroll; Michael A. Higgins and Lisa S. Spitulnik.

Staff present: James M. Irvin, Executive Secretary; John Seefried, Acting Chief, Construction Inspection Division; Don Lieu, Chief, Utility Design Division; Wes Daub, Project Manager, Utility Design Division; Tina D. Hackett, Chief, Real Estate Services Division and Jacqueline Somervell, Real Estate Services Division, Department of Public Works.

Mr. Stokes called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m.

1. **Approval of minutes:** Mr. Stokes indicated that the first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of April 14, 2009 and Conference call on May 4, 2009. Mr. Stokes asked if there were any comments or questions.

Motion: On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Spitulnik, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of April 14, 2009 and conference call on May 4, 2009.

2. Capital Project S-6260, Rockburn Hill Road Sewer Public Meeting

Staff Presentation: Wes Daub, Project Manager, Utility Design Division stated that in December 2005, the Department of Public Works brought proposed Capital Project S-6260, Rockburn Hill Road Sewer before the Public Works Board. The project consisted of the study and evaluation of various sewer system alternatives to serve eligible properties along Rockburn Hill Road. The estimated cost of the sewer study was \$50,000 to be funded in FY 2007.

The project was initiated by requests from three property owners on Rockburn Hill Road: (a) Ms. Cordelia Hanson, 6189 Rockburn Hill Road, (b) Mr. and Mrs. Edward Foit, 6151 Rockburn Hill Road and (c) Mr. and Mrs. Paul Guercio, 6159 Rockburn Hill Road. These properties are improved, are within the Metropolitan District and are eligible for public sewer service. Due to the topography of Rockburn Hill Road, the location of existing utilities, the necessity for easements and the permitting requirements of the State Park that surrounds the community, a study was proposed to determine the options available for providing public sewer service to the community.

After receiving testimony at the December 2005 Public Works Board hearing, the Board recommended the County go forward with the study with the provision that the County come back to the Board with options to allow the community the opportunity to provide

input. The meeting is to present the recommended sewer service option as described in the engineering report to the community and to receive input. Interested property owners were notified of tonight's meeting by letter, by advertisement in local newspapers and by postings in the project area.

The primary focus of the engineering report was the Rockburn Hill Study Area which includes 11 properties along Rockburn Hill Road, one property on River Road totaling approximately 46.3 acres, bordered by the Patapsco River to the northeast and I-95 to the southeast. The report also included the extended service area, which includes six properties reached by Cross View Road via Rockburn Hill Road totaling 32.3 acres and nine properties reached from Elibank Drive totaling 42.1 acres. Areas upstream of the extended service area along the Rockburn Branch were excluded from this study due to being placed in preservation. The study examined the maximum sewage flows, impacts of other utilities, geotechnical considerations, environmental impacts, easement requirements and horizontal and vertical alignment considerations for the purpose of determining the most economical and environmentally responsible alternative of wastewater service to this entire area.

The County and Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP, using the above criteria, investigated several options for providing wastewater service to the Rockburn Hill Study Area. The alternative selected to serve the study area is indicated in Figure 1 and will involve constructing the following facilities:

- 2,800 l.f. of 8" gravity sewer and associated manholes and service connections,
- One submersible grinder pump station, and
- 1,600 l.f. of parallel 1 ½-inch and 4-inch force main, including a directional drill of the Patapsco River.

This alternative provides the most reliable, long term, and cost effective solution to serve the Rockburn Hill Study Area and the future extended service area, while minimizing impacts to the State Park and existing utilities. The estimated engineering, easement acquisition and construction costs associated with this alternative is approximately \$1,850,000.

Mr. Daub presented a slide presentation which provided more details of the study. Six alternatives, in all, were considered, as follows:

- First option is to construct the sewer over to Gun Road and up to the Patapsco interceptor.
- Second option is to pump the sewer down River Road to Levering Road.
- Third option is to pump the sewer over to Lawyer's Hill Road – this was not considered.
- Fourth option is a siphon – the sewer would move by gravity to a point and then there would be a siphon across the river, approximately 1,000 feet long.
- Fifth option is to pump the sewer up to Rockburn Hill Road and then by gravity flow down into a pressure sewer.
- Sixth Option includes a pump station which will receive the affluent by gravity and pump it by force main across the river by a small 4-inch diameter pipe in its final stage (initially a 2-inch force main).

The department found sixth Option to be the best solution to get across the river and to provide future service to the entire area. The small pump station receiving flow by gravity from all areas upstream and Rockburn Hill Road and pumping through a small diameter force main which is directionally drilled across the river to avoid environmental impact - is in an engineering sense the best way to do it.

Board Comments:

Mr. Higgins raised the following questions:

1. Does the cost of the project of \$1,850,000 include the future extension? Mr. Daub stated that the cost of the project includes only what is shown in green on the screen, the red force main and the pump station.
2. The gravity main shown in green will it be shallow as constructed in the road? Mr. Daub stated our goal to sewer basements as needed often times that dictates the depth of the sewer. We are contemplating going along the back of Guercio's property - that would be a deeper sewer but we have to look at topo. The pump station being placed in an area that Mr. Guercio has already approved which is out of the 100 year floodplain.
3. Does the County envision any difficulty in obtaining the construction permits for this project? Mr. Daub stated that working with the State and the Park has been very successful. He doesn't anticipate going through a lot of wetlands - we have one crossing that will have to be permitted. This will be open cut type of construction and restoring the ground to its original condition. The sewer goes up Rockburn Hill Road - doesn't anticipate it being a deep sewer. We have to do accurate topo for the homes we want to serve.
4. Does the County anticipate blasting in this area? Mr. Daub said yes. We have done two soil borings by the Patapsco River for the purpose of determining if directional drilling would be feasible. We have not done any in the area of Rockburn Hill - that would be done during the final engineering and we could determine the hardness of the rock and determine if there are any requirements for blasting.

Mr. Smith asked how many alternatives were reviewed and why was this option the one chosen? Mr. Daub stated the department looked at five alternatives before choosing this one - which is somewhat of a hybrid of some of the others.

Mr. Stokes asked for details on the pump station. Mr. Daub provided details on the size and location of the pump station. Mr. Daub stated that the department has spoken to Mr. Guercio and his daughter about the location of the pump station and the type of building to be constructed.

Public Testimony:

Mr. Robert Schulze, 6154 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. Mr. Schulze indicated he had reviewed the engineering report in Mr. Daub's office and what was provided at tonight's meeting was incomplete. He stated he was concerned with Figure 2-1 of the report - that had not been printed for the group. This figure shows the areas of developable land if this project goes forward. Rockburn Hill Road is very steep and the properties along the road have working septic systems that are adequate. Under the law there can be no further septic systems in the area because of the steepness of the land. Figure 2-1 shows where land could be developed if it has sewer. It includes about 90 percent of the entire area. Rockburn Hill is a relatively unspoiled rural area in

Howard County – not very many like that – we would like for it to remain. It is not a good place to be developed – growth in this area would not be smart – it would be very costly in terms of degradation of what is there already. Families have very deep roots and would not like to see the area changed. Five years ago we got water – the water main is right up against this steep bank. The construction in the road will be very disruptive. I hope the Board if they approve this project, that they approve the sewer for the three properties on Rockburn Hill Road and not the sewer that would gravity feed up Rockburn Hill Road and promote a great deal of development. The Board should look study Figure 2-1 to see where development is possible. Mr. Schulze provided a copy of a letter he wrote to Councilwoman Courtney Watson that outlines his comments.

Mr. Stokes stated that what he heard was three key issues – the first regarding the developable property as shown on Figure 2-1, second the separation of the water and sewer and putting it in the road, and three considerations from the Board of at least providing sewer to the three properties that requested it. Mr. Daub had Figure 2-1 projected on the screen. It shows an orange cross-hatched area and purple area (the cross-hatching represents the developable land based on slope and slope only). The zoning is RED (Residential Environmental Development), allows for 2 units per acre - net acreage (the land minus whatever is over 20 or 25% slope and also not in the floodplain). This shows broad areas of developable land; however it may not be completely accurate. He pointed out land that was developable, undevelopable, floodplain, steep slopes, etc.

Mr. Will Hinz, Whitman, Requardt & Associates, the County's consultant, pointed out the area where the County plans to directionally drilling and start the force main back from the water main. We have met with a directional drilling contractor in the field to determine the feasibility of installing the force main in the area with the water main. Directional drilling will minimize the impact to the roadway.

Ms. Jennifer Morgan, 6154 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. Ms. Morgan stated that she doesn't mind that the three houses get their sewer – they need it. All of us do not need it. When they drilled a few years ago and blasted, they took away our water supply from our well, so we had to ask the County to provide water. There are people on well water in this area. You are asking them to accept sewer and also to accept the water and that cost money – that comes out of our pockets. The sewer line is going under the Patapsco River. We finally got the river cleaned up after Agnes and you are asking for a sewer line to be blasted and go under the Patapsco River. We are trying to clean up Maryland – not dirty it up. I believe this is unrealistic. Deal with the three houses, but to include all of us who don't need it, please don't - you are going to screw things up.

Mr. Stokes stated regarding the river, the County will directionally bore so that you minimize the impact to the river. Mr. Daub explained the directional drilling process and how the County's proposes to install the pipes.

Mr. Smith asked about the construction time for the project. Mr. Daub indicated nine months – that includes the entire project. Mr. Stokes stated that one of the recommendations that the Board may have is to make sure on record that we will work with the community regarding how this project would be phased. In terms of the road, if

the County can give the community a good description of the sequence of events of the construction activity which would give the community a good sense of what impact there will be on the road and access.

Ms. Spitulnik asked beyond the three properties that need it, how much more work is it to extend the sewer to the rest of the community to have that availability benefit down the road and is it more beneficial to do the construction at this point rather than two years from now. Mr. Daub stated the County would have to make provisions for future extension whether we installed the sewer in Rockburn Hill Road or not. There is an economy of scale in doing the whole project at one time – in terms of the engineering, in terms of the permitting and having the duration of time that it takes to go through the three Boards and get approval. It is not essential but it is beneficial financially to do it that way.

Mr. Higgins questioned if the County has to blast, what effect could this have on the wells in the area. Would the residents be required to hook up to the water main? Mr. Don Lieu, Chief, Utility Design Division, stated since there is public water in Rockburn Hill Road and if the property fronts the water main – if something should happen to the well that the well is no longer useable, the Health Department will require that they connect to the public water system. Mr. Higgins asked at their expense? Mr. Lieu stated that if it is something that the County did, the County may have a liability but he wasn't sure.

Mr. Higgins questioned in terms of design standards what the County's policy is when you dig a reasonably deep trench in a one lane road. When the road is reconstructed, what kind of section is constructed – would it be the original section as a one lane road or would you upgrade it to something better? Mr. Lieu stated that it has never been the County's intention to change the character of the neighborhood – we will put the road back to the same condition as it was before the construction. Ms. Carroll asked if any other homeowners have requested to be connected to the main since the study. Mr. Lieu stated that the State Department of Natural Resources has stated that they were interested in having the ability to connect, if they needed it in the future.

Ms. Jennifer Pollard, 6291 W. Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. Ms. Pollard is located in the extended area. She asked if they be required to connect or will it be optional? Mr. Irvin stated that the properties are not required to connect unless the Health Department condemns the system. Ms. Pollard asked if they do connect, it is at their own expense? Mr. Irvin stated that everyone would pay for their own connection. Ms. Pollard stated it appears that the extended area is excluded from the study due to being placed in reservation – what does that mean? Mr. Daub stated that the County did not exclude the extended area from the study – when we determine flows it included everyone that could possibly connect to it. Most of those areas have been put in preservation and have requested that the sewer not be installed in that area. Ms. Pollard stated she is outside of the project area. Mr. Daub stated those lots are not part of the metropolitan district. The owners have to petition to come into the metropolitan district. Those properties are uphill of the sewer and we would find the best way to provide sewer once the properties entered into the metropolitan district. The sewer along the river will be at a depth that if we cross the river we could pick up those properties.

Mr. Daniel Bruno, 6159 River Road, Elkridge, Maryland. He lives at the bottom of the study area. His septic system has been there for 40 years and gets pump out a couple of times a year. He also has an 1800 foot water line that he maintains by himself. He feels like a stepchild that has been neglected by the County because they have never put anything in down there. He is definitely interested in seeing the sewer constructed because he is not sure how long the septic system will work.

Ms. Joyce Foresman, 6219 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. She is the curator on the State property and is on septic and a well. She did not ask the State to connect to the sewer – she does not want sewer. She is not in favor of this project.

Ms. Jennifer Morgan, 6154 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. She stated that the electricity goes out frequently during snow storms, rain storms, etc. – sometimes as long as 4-5 days. What happens to the pump station during these types of situations? The County may want to look at how long the generators will work. Mr. Stokes stated the County will take this into account during the design of the system.

Mr. Eric Fischer, 6172 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. Mr. Fisher expressed concern regarding the depth of his basement relative to the existing roadway. Mr. Fisher questioned why the gravity sewer was being installed for the lower area, but that he would be responsible for any costs associated with getting gravity service from his basement to the road. Mr. Daub stated providing sewer service to all basements may not be possible. More detailed design and topographic survey will be required to access individual parcels. Gravity sewer service is being proposed along the area south of Rockburn Hill Road due to these mains being needed for future extensions.

Ms. Cathy Hudson, 6018 Old Lawyers Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland and a member of the Rockburn Land Trust and Patapsco Heritage Greenway. How many houses can be served by the two inch force main? Mr. Daub stated approximately 40 homes could be served. Since the initial flow will be limited, the County is proposing to install a four inch force main and basically install the smaller main (two inch) inside of it. Initially the two inch line is needed, but while we are doing the directional drilling we are going to install the four inch line and use it to encase the smaller pipe at that time. Ms. Hudson questioned if a two inch pipe can serve 40 homes would a four inch pipe double or triple the number of homes to be served? Mr. Daub said no. A four inch pipe could serve up to six times the number of homes, depending on the capacity of the pumps. Ms. Hudson's second question has to do with parallel versus perpendicular for pipes in the river. Are the pipes going to be buried when they cross the river? Mr. Daub stated the construction will be below the river - probably 12 – 15 feet below the river.

David Clash, 6295 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. Mr. Clash stated he appreciated being included in the extended service area. He noted that 6295 and 6299 Rockburn Hill Road are reversed on the map. In the event that this project is built and members of that enclave 6295, 6299 and 6279 Rockburn Hill Road wanted to be included in order to have sewer service – what would need to be done? Mr. Irvin stated that the properties would first have to petition to enter the Metropolitan District. A notice is placed in the newspaper and if nobody objects the property is incorporated into the Metropolitan District. If anybody does objects, it has to go to the County Council for a

public hearing and approval. The County would prefer if the owners came into the district as a group. There are no public easements back to this area so the County would rather design the sewer once than four separate times if each owner came in individually.

Mr. David Bruno, 6159 River Road, Elkridge, Maryland stated that he represented the owner of 6151 Rockburn Hill Road – Mr. Foit - who could not attend the meeting. He wanted to express his concerns regarding his failing septic system – he is desperate for this sewer.

Mr. Robert Schultz, 6154 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. The Board asked the County which of the existing residences on Rockburn Hill Road had asked for sewer. Mr. Schultz said there are six existing houses that could be served by the branch that will go up Rockburn Hill Road. Only the property located at 6189 has asked for sewer – which means only 1 out of 6 are in favor of the sewer.

Mr. Stokes questioned since only one owner on Rockburn Hill Road has requested the sewer, is there another way to serve this property. Mr. Daub stated that the property could be served by obtaining additional easements to the south and installing sewer from the interceptor to 6189 Rockburn Hill Road. However, if service is ever requested along Rockburn hill Road, there will be duplicate facilities installed. These facilities would need to be installed in very steep slopes, which are undesirable for construction, operation, and maintenance of the facilities.

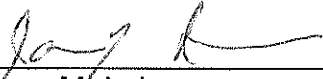
Mr. Stokes stated that two underlying principles that will ultimately govern the board's decision. 1. If a parcel is in the Metropolitan District and requests service then the County has an obligation to provide service. 2. The County must take the most effective route to provide for ultimate service to the entire service area.

Mr. Walter Hanson, representing Ms. Cordelia Hanson, 6189 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland. Mr. Hanson indicated that the previous water concerns of one property owner necessitated the need for the previous water extension up Rockburn Hill Road (basically a north side issue). The south side of the hill is typically a sewer issue. His mother's property has gone through two septic systems; therefore, she is in favor of the sewer project.

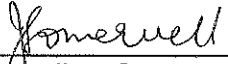
Motion:

Mr. Stokes requested that the County follow up with the residents concerning the issues raised and take these issues be taken into account in the project design as the project moves forward. The Board requested that an additional public hearing be held after the County has addressed the concerns raised.

There being no further business, the Public Works Board meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.



James M. Irvin,
Executive Secretary



Jacqueline Somervell
Recording Secretary